

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 18-29 are currently pending. Independent claims 1, and 18 have been amended. All remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 or 18.

Claims 1-11, and 15-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,946,634 (Korpela). The arguments raised in support of this rejection are set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action and not herein repeated. Applicants respectfully traverses the grounds for the rejection of any of the pending claims to the extent said grounds for rejection have not been rendered moot by the amendments to the independent claims 1 and 18.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's conditional allowance of Claims 12-14 and 27-29. Without prejudice to fulfilling the condition upon which said claims would be allowable, Applicants believe that the amendment to independent claims 1 and 18 obviates the necessity for doing so at this time.

Reconsideration of the pending claims, as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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